

'TENNESSEE' ERNIE FORD



Music VIEWS



DEC.
1958





Singing actress Mamie Van Doren turns equestrienne for her role in Warner Brothers' "Born Reckless."

Music Views

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THE COVER

This year the pleasant task of saying "Merry Christmas" to everybody in general and Music Views readers in particular is awarded to Tennessee Ernie Ford. His new Christmas album, "The Star Carol," is rapidly becoming one of the most popular albums of the season. This follows the lead set by his two previous albums of sacred music.

No doubt he will repeat the greeting in a more elaborate manner this month on his NBC-TV "The Ford Show."

We join Ernie in Wishing everyone, "Happy Holidays."

TUNESMITHS SING OR STARVE

In today's record market, if you want to be a songwriter you almost have to be a singer or a guitar player or, best of all, both! The garden variety, non-performing tunesmith is currently casting a soulful eye over the hit charts and, in view of the number of hits being written by the performer, he finds himself lending a hopefully critical ear to his own voice as it bounces back off the wall of his shower.

Recent hit lists have disclosed this "split personality" aspect on such disclicks as "Susie Darlin'" with Robin Luke, Ed Townsend's "For Your Love," "My True Love" with Jack Scott, Eddie Cochran with "Summertime Blues," Bobby Darin's "Your Mine," "So It's Goodbye" with Paul Anka, Don Gibson's "Look Who's Blue" and Domenico Modugno's "Nel Blu Dipinto Di Blu," to mention only a few. All the tunes were penned by the performer.

Industry observers (those anonymous and illusive individuals who will gladly trot out their pet theories at the drop of a quarter note) offer a variety of explanations for this phenomenon. One school of thought holds that because the young artists fall more closely into the age group of the listener, they are more "in

tune" with record fan's tastes and requirements. They also hold that the kids spot any tendency on the part of the tunesmith to "write down" or develop an insincere lyric idea and so reject the work of the "outside" writer.

Another theory maintains that since "sound" is such an important part of the record, the writer-performer has an overwhelming advantage in demonstrating his song. He has carefully tailored the song to his own particular capabilities and can "sell" it with top effect. If he also plays an instrument (usually guitar) he can go into a custom recording studio and make his own "demonstration record," displaying himself and the song to good advantage.

Many of these double or triple-threat artists are then submitted to the recording companies where, if accepted, the songs are re-recorded and marketed. Still others finance their own recording dates or find an "independent" producer who will make a "master" and attempt to lease or sell it to a recording company. Sometimes the producer will start his own label on the strength of the record, hoping that an immediate hit will get the company underway.

There are also varying opinions about the effect this "wide open" situation has on the music busi-

ness. Some feel that it lowers the quality of music because of the influence of "amateurism." Others insist that it adds vitality and new blood to the business by making it easier for a newcomer to enjoy the rewards of a hit record.

Whichever viewpoint is correct, one thing is certain: it has never been easier for the talented newcomer to rise into "big time," as a performer or a writer if the writer also happens to be a performer.

Even the supporters of the trend are quick to point out, however, that talent is still the major consideration. The artist must be able to "sell" his idea to the listener and, as the writer, his idea must be saleable. A huge percentage of the young hopefuls still fall by the wayside due to insufficient talent or the capricious whim of fate.

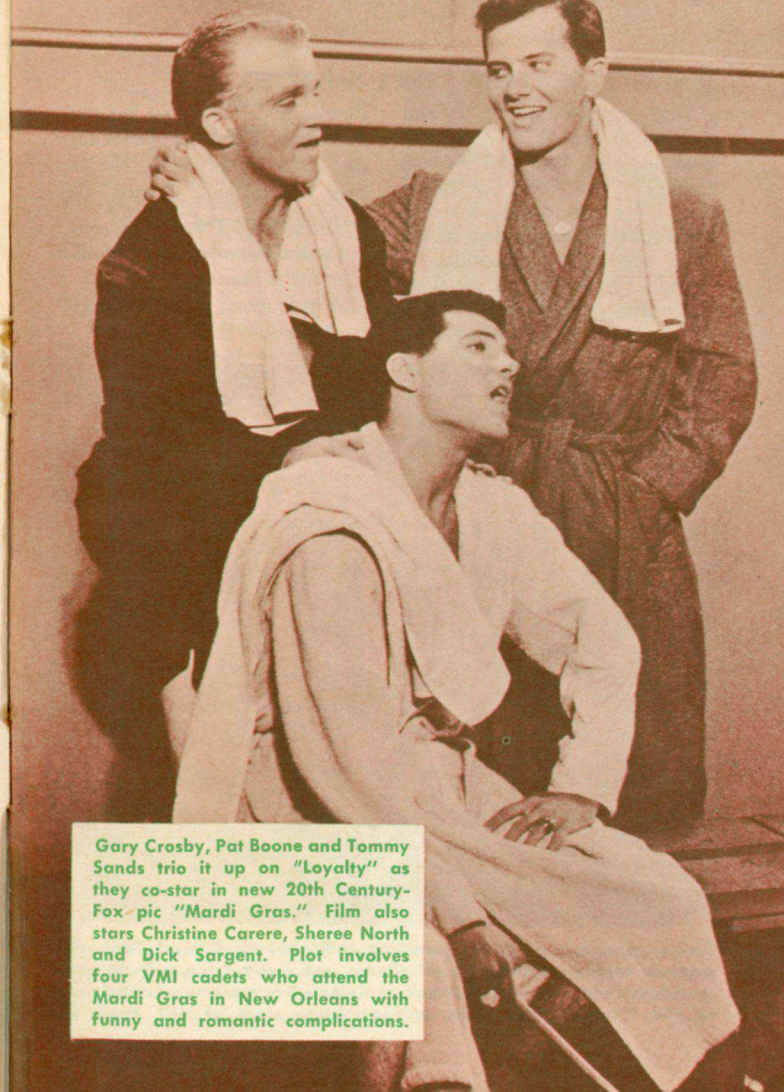
But the situation does hold a good deal of encouragement for the struggling young performer and writer. Recording industry executives, independent producers and music publishers are constantly searching out new talent to satisfy the zestful appetite of the record buying public.

So if you can write your own songs and sing them to the satisfaction of a few million teenagers (and/or their elders and juniors), you may be on your way up the

ladder of success. While you are climbing, however, pause for a sympathetic downward glance at the poor, limited songwriter whose voice sounds like gravel on a tin roof. That unfortunate guy has a rough row to hoe.



"Harry's Choice" couldn't be choicer than his new album of that title on Cap. Harry James, we mean.



Gary Crosby, Pat Boone and Tommy Sands trio it up on "Loyalty" as they co-star in new 20th Century-Fox pic "Mardi Gras." Film also stars Christine Carere, Sheree North and Dick Sargent. Plot involves four VMI cadets who attend the Mardi Gras in New Orleans with funny and romantic complications.

YULE TUNES IMPORTED

That each country has its own approach to the music of Christmas is well illustrated by the 'Capitol' of the World "Christmas In " album series. Six new albums have been added to the series this year: "Christmas in Poland," "Christmas in Australia," "Christmas in Portugal," "Christmas in Austria," "Christmas in

Brazil," and "Christmas in Cuba." Previously, the series has included the countries of Italy, Holland, Mexico, England, France, Germany, Sweden and Spain.

Capitol has also made one addition to its domestic catalogue of Christmas music, "The Star Carol" by Tennessee Ernie Ford.



During recording of USAF Recruiting radio shows, Colonel Dean Hess admires Freddy Martin's Capitol albums and receives the maestro's congratulations for his work in behalf of Korean war orphans as documented in film "Battle Hymn," the motion picture story of Col. Hess' life.

2ND CHANCE

Tommy Edwards' MGM Records hit, "It's All In the Game," was first recorded by the singer on that same label some five years ago. The current slicing, however, was re-recorded with an updated arrangement.

Evidently figuring that history might repeat itself, the label has had another of its crooners, Bill Farrell, record a new version of "Circus," previously recorded by the same singer six years ago. The new version will be released on Cub, an MGM subsidiary.



Singer-actress Lola Albright plays role of nightclub singer in love with Peter Gunn in adventure-type NBC-TV show bearing that title.

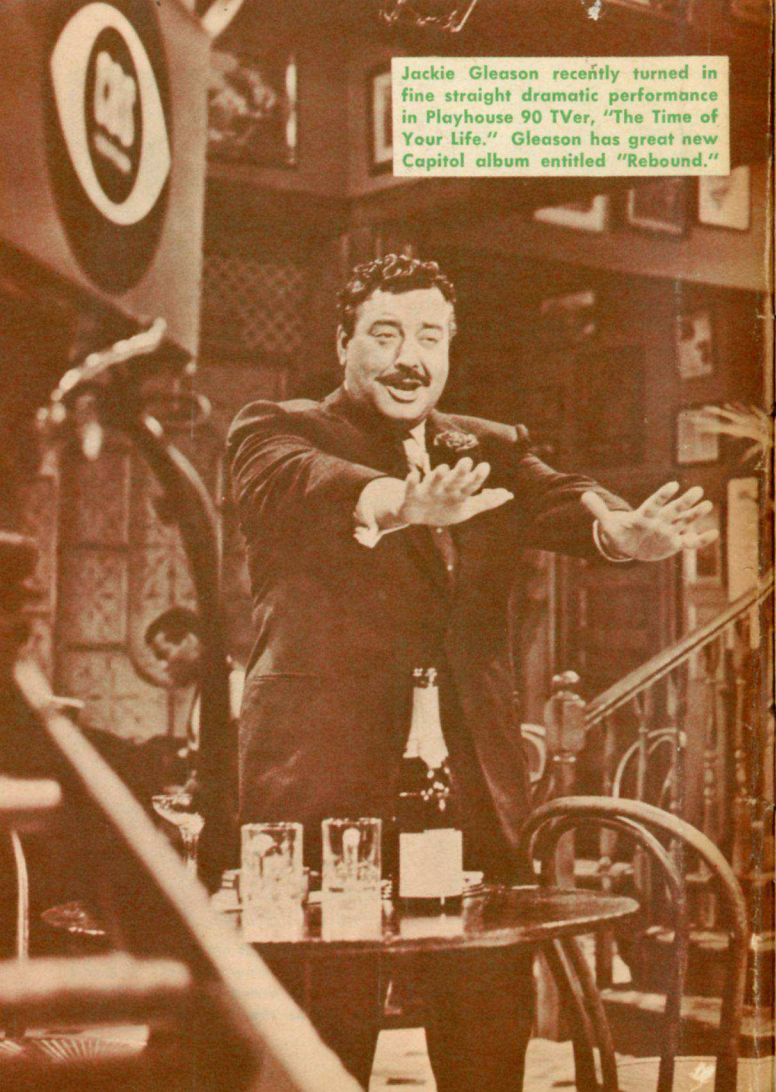


Orkster Charles "Bud" Dant looks for hit with new Coral instrumental single, "Swing Hula." He also has album, "Isle of Enchantment."



Sonny James has new one powering its way up the charts, "I Can't Stay Away From You." Flipside is "Let Me Be the One to Love You."

Jackie Gleason recently turned in fine straight dramatic performance in Playhouse 90 TVer, "The Time of Your Life." Gleason has great new Capitol album entitled "Rebound."



vamp till ready



THE NIGHT BEFORE A VERY HIP CHRISTMAS

'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the pad
Not a hip cat was swinging, and that's nowhere, dad;
The stove was hung up in that stocking routine,
In hopes that the fat man would soon make the scene;

The kids had all had it so they hit their sacks,
And me and the bride had begun to relax,
When there started a rumble that came on real frantic
So I opened the window to figure the panic;

I saw a square short that was makin' fat tracks,
Bein' pulled by eight dogs who were wearing hat racks;
And a funny old geezer was flippin' his lid,
He told 'em to "make it" and man, like, they did!

I couldn't help diggin' the scene on the roof
As I stood there just waiting for chubby to goof;
They stood by the chimney in bunches and clusters
'Till tubby slid down coming on like gangbusters.

His threads were the squarest and I had to chuckle,
In front (not in back) was his Ivy League buckle;
The mop on his chin hid his button-down collar,
And with that red nose, man he looked like a baller.

Like he was the squarest, the most absolute,
But face it, who cares when he left all that loot?
He laid the jazz on me and fled from the gig,
Wailin' "Have a cool yule and man later, like, dig?"

—bolof

● MUSIC CONTEST OPEN

Prizes totalling \$9,250 will be awarded to young American and Canadian composers by Student Composers Awards (SCA) 1958. The competition is designed to encourage the creation of concert music by student composers. Announcement of the 1958 prize winners will be made in June, 1959, with sums ranging from \$500 to \$2,000 to be granted at the discretion of the judges.

From now until February 15, 1959, the awards are open to citizens or permanent residents of the United States, its territories and possessions, or Canada, who will be under thirty (30) years of age on December 31, 1958. Entrants must be enrolled in accredited secondary schools, colleges or conservatories, or engaged in private study with recognized and established teachers.

The permanent Judging Committee is made up of William Schuman, composer and President of the Juilliard School of Music; Earl V Moore, Dean, School of Music, University of Michigan; Henry Cowell, composer and teacher; and Claude Champagne, Assistant Director, Quebec Provincial Conservatory. This group will be augmented by other leading composers, publishers and interpreters of music.

Because it is the purpose of



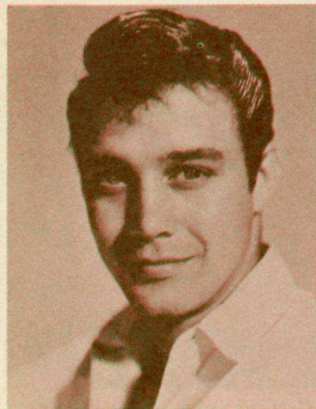
This winter is a nice time to be dreaming about Hawaii, and Webley Edwards helps dream along via Cap album, "Na Mele O Hawaii."

SCA to encourage student composers, no limitations are established as to instrumentation or length of manuscript. Students may enter as many as three compositions, but no contestant may win more than one (1) prize or award. Compositions need not have been composed during the year of entry.

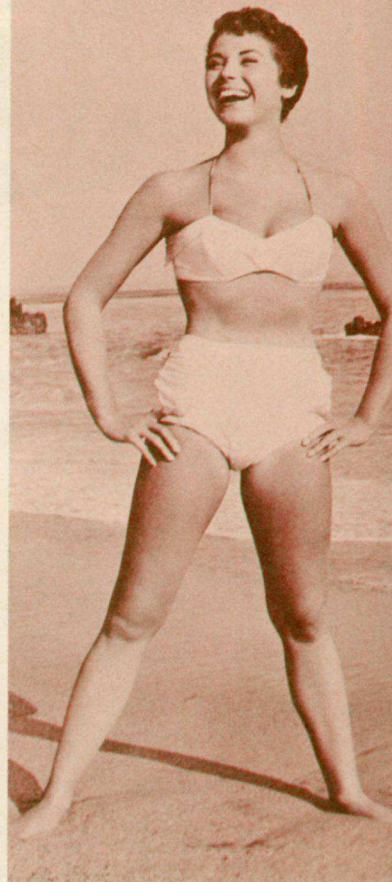
MAKES CENTS

The archives of show business reveal the names of many performers who got their start "singing for pennies," but singer Bob Freeman probably didn't figure he'd have to do that right after a big hit like "Do You Want to Dance?"

Seems as though the rock 'n' roller was making a personal appearance tour in the Washington area when one of the promoters offered to pay him off with "two wooden barrels of pennies." The offer was rejected.



Actor Michael Callan makes record debut in near future with album and single on new Colpix wax.



Trained as singer and dancer, starlet Andra Martin becomes a full-fledged leading lady in Warner's "Up Periscope" with James Garner.



U.S. COAST GUARD

Andy Griffith's most recent dramatic role is as a cook in the U. S. Coast Guard in motion pic titled "Onionhead" for Warner Brothers.

WHO GOOFED?

A customer recently wrote to Capitol complaining about a record he had purchased. The customer was dissatisfied with "The Poiple Kishke Eater," describing the Mickey Katz record as "one side of a two-sided record."

According to the customer, "I have a regular portable phonograph and upon placing it on, find that this record

will not play since the hole in the center of the record is much too large, and the record merely slides all over the turn table."

So let this be a lesson to those who may take progress for granted. There are those who have not yet come into contact with the 45 rpm record and its large spindle-hole.



Gina Lollobrigida became an "honorary Platter" during a visit backstage at the Olympia Music Hall in Paris, France, where the vocal group performed recently. Platters have won consistent acclaim abroad.

HI-FI AND STEREO ARE FOR TEENAGERS, TOO!

There was a time when hi-fi fans were divided roughly into two types: (1) technical minded individuals whose vocation or hobby was electronics and (2) people wealthy enough to stand the high cost of early, experimental hi-fi components.

Happily, this day is long past. Today hi-fi is for everyone everyone, that is, who enjoys music in any form.

Hi-fi should be of particular interest to the younger generation. The music of today's young people is based, to a great extent, on *excitement* and *sound*. The recording companies go to fantastic lengths to provide new, exciting sounds both electronically and musically. The listener who plays these recordings on an outmoded, inadequate player is robbing himself of his full measure of enjoyment. He is not taking advantage of everything the company is trying to give him in exchange for the price of a single record, EP or LP. That's why hi-fi is such a bargain it makes every record worth so much more to the listener in terms of enjoyment, satisfaction and sheer excitement.

This does not mean that every youngster should now go out and hock his hotrod in order to buy a lot of expensive equipment. Far from it! Great strides in engineering have lowered the price of hi-fi sets and components to within range of the most modest budget. Fine all-in-one sets are available at very reasonable prices. There are excellent "kits" which permit even the untrained fan to do his own assembling at a considerable saving in cost and provide hours of educational enjoyment. Naturally, the finest of the sets are the most expensive. However, there are many hi-fi rigs which are available to the hustling teenager who wishes to make good use of his summer earnings, odd-job money or cash birthday and Christmas gifts. (A judicious word dropped at the proper time in a parental ear has also been known to produce results). Whatever the method, a talk with the neighborhood hi-fi dealer is bound to turn up the rig best suited to the needs and pocketbook.

And what about stereo? It's the same thing only more so. Listening to a well-produced record on a good stereo outfit is an experience unequalled in audio thrills. It can't be described, it must be heard. It's enough to say that it is often *superior*

to the in-person performance.

Because it requires more equipment, stereo costs more than monaural or single-track players. But to anyone who really enjoys music, it's worth saving for. Here again, the local sound merchant is in the best position to discuss individual possibilities.

Although stereo disks are a rather recent development, the enthusiasm with which they are being received has encouraged the record companies to begin rapidly building catalogues, including all types of music from rock 'n' roll to symphonies.

So hi-fi and stereo are for those who insist on excitement in their music, regardless of the type. They are for people to whom music has a real meaning.

They are for teenagers.

If you're cold this winter, just sit and reminisce with the Four Preps on "The Things We Did Last Summer," title of latest Cap album.



THE ONE NEW CHRISTMAS
ALBUM THAT EVERYBODY
WANTS... **TENNESSEE**



**ERNIE
FORD
THE
STAR CAROL**

For his own
personal

Christmas greeting,

Ernie Ford has chosen a group of his favorite carols. To some of the best-loved traditional songs from across the sea, he has added three beautiful American hymns. Ernie sings these songs with all the warm, religious feeling heard in his other fine inspirational albums, Hymns, Nearer The Cross, and Spirituals.

T 1071 (Also available in Stereo)



THE PERFECT GIFT IDEA

**MAKE A
BIG HIT!**

*With These Current
Best Selling Pop Albums*



NAT "KING" COLE W 1084
THE VERY THOUGHT OF YOU



THE KINGSTON TRIO T 996



DAKOTA STATON DYNAMIC!
T 1054



FRANK SINATRA SINGS FOR
ONLY THE LONELY W 1053

LOUIS PRIMA • STRICTLY PRIMA! T 1132
JONAH JONES • SWINGIN' AT THE CINEMA T 1083
THE FOUR PREPS • THE THINGS WE
DID LAST SUMMER T 1090
RAY ANTHONY • ANTHONY PLAYS ALLEN T 1086
THE BALLAD STYLE OF STAN KENTON T 1088
KEELY SMITH • POLITELY! T 1073
JACKIE GLEASON • REBOUND W 1075
JUNE CHRISTY • JUNE'S GOT RHYTHM T 1076
GEORGE SHEARING • LATIN LACE T 1082
LES BAXTER • LOVE IS A FABULOUS THING T 1080
JOE BUSHKIN • BLUE ANGELS T 1094



Dancer Tybee Afra is featured in exciting Afro-Cuban number in the lavish Monte Proser Revue at Tropicana in Las Vegas. Spicy flavor of shows is captured in new Gordon Jenkins album "Tropicana Holiday."



RED KIDS GO WEST

The Communist stand on "decadent" American jazz continues to be consistently inconsistent. Although the music has, in several red areas, been pushing through the iron curtain with varying degrees of official sanction, East Germany recently saw a "crack-down" in which the members of three juvenile clubs were arrested because they named their organizations after popular American jazz centers.

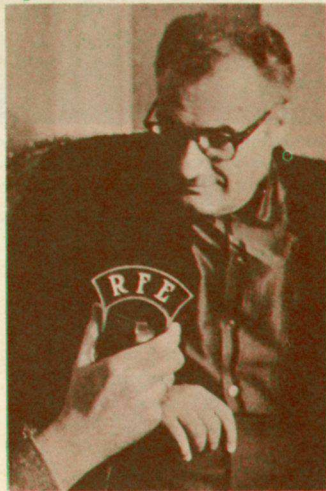
Leipzig police are arresting

members of the "Broadway Band," "42nd Street Band" and "Capitol Band" because the memberships listen to American music and pick jazz and rock 'n' roll performers as their heroes.

The kids are also beginning to sport sideburns, crewcuts and are wearing levis, but the most bitter pill to the authorities is that the youngsters are not being true to the East German performers who are "politically acceptable."



Margie Rayburn makes strong bid for hit honors with double-threat entry on Liberty, "To Each His Own" plus "And He Told Me a Lie."



Songwriter Buck Ram (r) is interviewed on Radio Free Europe. His tune "Only You" has been big one in Europe for nearly two years.



Attending a recent party for Gordon MacRae at the California Racquet Club were (l to r) Edgar Bergen, Mr. and Mrs. David Rose, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Weston (Jo Stafford). Party celebrated MacRae's hit, "The Secret."

IKE BOX

The National Symphony Orchestra, whose home base is in Washington, D.C., holds out little hope that one of the boxes in Constitution Hall will be used during the season. The Association recently made its traditional presentation of a box to the President of the United States but Ike, unlike his more musical predecessor, has seen only one concert in

his six-year tenure. Previously the orchestra's box office receipts were considerably bolstered by tourists who attended in hopes of seeing President Truman during one of his frequent visits to the concert hall.

The Orchestra is scheduled to make a South American tour next spring under the auspices of the State Department.

● STEREOCASTS GAIN

Radio and TV stations are moving into the stereo scene with increasing rapidity. Within the past few months, stations all over the country have begun experiments with stereocasts and many are currently preparing regular shows.

The movement has been given impetus, recently, by network TV-Radio simulcasts of such shows as the Lawrence Welk Show and the George Gobel Show.



Jonah Jones draws on movie music for his newest Capitol album entitled "Swingin' at the Cinema."



Jack Teagarden boards a Pan American airliner with his wife and his band, bound for Asiatic tour sponsored by the State Department. He also has a new Capitol album with the title "Big T's Dixieland Band."



Pretty Pam Garner makes recording debut on Coral with single, "Pinch Me Baby," and album, "Quietly."



The incomparable Judy Garland has done it again, "it" being a great new Capitol album, "Judy In Love."



Pretty Molly Bee sings all about "Young Romance" in her new Capitol package bearing that title.



Songstress Anna Maria Alberghetti was a recent guest on NBC Television's "The Bob Cummings Show."

TEMPER

Opera singers have long been notorious for their volatile temperaments but Italian baritone Ettore Bastianini recently outdistanced the field in this department. Appearing in a performance of "Barber of Seville" for the Association of Opera Lovers in Bilbao, Spain, the baritone took exception to an isolated heckler and smashed a guitar in full

view of the audience.

Members of the Association came on-stage at the end of the performance to present the singer with an award for distinguished performance during the opera season. Following the presentation, Bastianini is said to have thrown the medal into the orchestra pit and exited to the unsympathetic booing of the opera goers.



One of the most humorous ditties to come down pike in some time is "Mad, Passionate Love," as done by England's Bernard Bresslaw. The flip is satire, "You Need Feet."



Peggy Lee hoofs it up a bit with her host on recent stanza of "The George Gobel Show." Her new single "Light of Love" & "Sweetheart" is proving double-barreled hit. She also has new album on Cap titled "Things Are Swingin'." True.

● TD TAPES BOUGHT

A group of 26 tapes recorded by the late Tommy Dorsey was recently acquired by the Colpix label. The tapes, recorded just prior to the bandleader's death, were originally intended for release on Dorsey's Bell label.

CRASH!

The following is an excerpt from an advertisement for a stereo recording of sportscars racing at the Sebring Grand Prix:

"Imagine being on the Esses, on the straights, at technical inspection at Sebring as Ferraris, Astons, Jaguars, Os-cas, etc. roar through your living room from left to right.

It's difficult to describe the sensation of hearing a super-tuned competition machine hurtling towards you from your left, shift gears with neck-snapping precision not two feet from where you stand and then scream off into the distance on your right."

Could be a little rough on the furniture, too.



The Stylemasters turn up with two bright new arrangements of oldies for new Cap wax, "Carolina in the Morning" & "You're a Sweetheart."



A great new ballad by Dean Martin is currently climbing the charts, "Once Upon a Time (It Happened)." Flip is swinger, "The Magician."

QUIET!

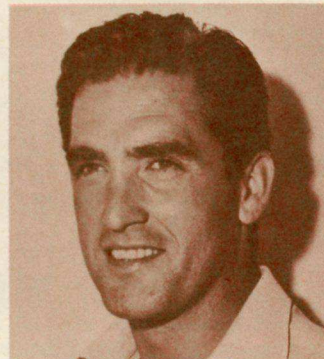
In order to keep the sound from reaching ear and plaster splitting levels, the recent New York High Fidelity Music Show had a "Decibel Detail" roaming the corridors. The detail walked its "beat" with a sound meter, asking exhibitors who "broke the sound barrier" to control volume levels.



This fellow is "Strictly Prima," which is okay with just about anyone. It's also the title of his (Louis') newest album on Capitol.



Diane Maxwell, a pretty 16, tries for the charmed hit circle with a new Challenge side, "Love Charms."



Actor Jacques Bergerac debuts as a singer in upcoming Seven Arts' motion pic, "Thunder In the Sun."

TUNE TAKES TIME

Nat "King" Cole's current hit waxing, "Non Dimenticar," is the 15th recording of the Italian melody but marks the first time it has scored as a hit.

The tune was first heard in the Italian movie "Anna" and was on the back of the MGM soundtrack waxing of the title tune. At that time it was titled "T'ho Voluto Bene" and might have been drop-

ped into obscurity had it not been picked up by the supper club songstresses. This prompted the writing of an English lyric which was unsuccessful under the title "If You Said Goodby." Later on the title and lyric were changed to "Non Dimenticar" and it was recorded several times before the Nat Cole version broke through for a hit.



Nat "King" Cole presents a collection of his albums to the crew of the USS Nautilus, accepted by Commander Joseph Williams and Lt. Glen Parsons. The presentation occurred on the set of Nat's newest movie, "Night of the Quarter Moon." His disks were played over the submarine's intercom during the historic voyage under the polar ice cap.

● EARLY BIRDS ROCK

Current trend among members of the teenage set in Italy is to gather at the corner expresso bar and play the jukebox filled with American rock 'n' roll music, beginning before 8:00 am! The plays are 50 lire (about 8 cents) and the music is about 95% American.



Fred Astaire recently introduced new partner, Barrie Chase, on NBC-TV "An Evening with Fred Astaire."



The fine jazz styling of Ann Richards makes her new Capitol album, "I'm Shootin' High," good listening.



Ray Anthony pays tribute to the composing talents of Steve Allen on Cap wax "Anthony Plays Allen."



For his second album on Cap wax orkster Johnny Richards comes up with exciting new sound with "Experiments in Sound." Very fresh.

● MELACHRINO TOURS

George Melachrino, whose RCA Victor string orchestra is well known here in the States via recordings, is currently making his first concert tour of the country. The tour will take him in 40 cities.

● BARDOT BUDDY BELTS

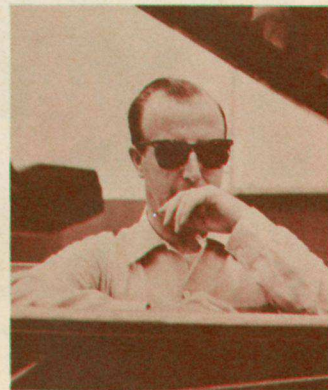
Some guys have all the luck. Not only is Sacha Distel the boy friend of Brigitte Bardot, he also has become a recording artist. The singer-guitarist was recently signed by Dot Records.



Nelson Riddle has strong contender in his newest single on Capitol, "Birds of Paradise" and "Uma Casa Portuguesa," both Latin flavored.



Guitarist-conductor Alvino Rey has new Capitol package with aptly descriptive title, "Swingin' Fling."



George Shearing displays more of his great piano stylings, this time in a Latin mood, on great new Capitol package titled "Latin Lace."

Bulk Rate

- ★ Dealers with local Bulk Rate permit may use 1½c pre-cancelled stamp (or meter) on mailings of 200 or more; otherwise use 2c uncanceled stamp (or meter). No envelope or sealing required. Mail at Post Office. When 2c stamp is used, place stamp so it covers up the words "Bulk Rate."



Meredith Lynn MacRae was co-hostess with her mother, Sheila, at a party to celebrate the success of her father's hit record, "The Secret." Dad, of course, is Gordon MacRae. In background are diskers Jan and Arnie.